

TRANSFORM NEWSLETTER # 2

WELCOME TO THE "TRANSFORM" STUDY!

Editorial

We all want and sometimes expect to transform our situation to bring the better version of ourselves and our community. Mental health is one of the most neglected areas in health care service delivery and the situation is more complicated for the people living in the underprivileged areas like slums in the Low- and Middle-Income Countries. However, we all believe there is no health without mental health and mental health is also related to socioeconomic development. There is limited access to evidence-based biomedical care for serious mental disorders for people living in the slums in Bangladesh and the scenario is not very different in other countries. To address this global mental health concern, the TRANSFORM team initiated an interesting and important research titled "Transforming Access to Care for Serious Mental Disorders in Slum- The TRANSFORM" funded by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), UK. The research has started its long journey to increase the access to biomedical care for the people living in the Korail slum by discussing with the community members, traditional and faith-based healers in slum and developing an innovative way of training and referring people to evidence based care from the National Institute of Mental Health. In this second newsletter, we highlighted a few of our current activities to increase awareness and stakeholder's participations. As a psychiatrist, it is my dream to ensure access to mental health care for all and TRANSFORM research finding may help us to document the current scenario and way of moving forward with evidence.

Building Capacity of the Field Research Team: Preparing for Getting into the Community



Bangladesh Field Research Team

A two-month long training program was conducted for the Research Team titled "Qualitative Methods for the TRANSFORM study: Transforming Access to Care for Serious Mental Illness in Slums". The training program was inaugurated by Professor Swaran Singh, Principal Investigator (TRANSFORM), and Professor, University of Warwick, United Kingdom (UK). This training program held twice a week (Wednesday and Thursday) from March 2 to April 27, 2022. The team used both online and offline approaches to make the training most effective for Bangladesh field research team members. The training program held regularly at the Conference room of Telepsychiatry Research and Innovation Network (TRIN), Bangla Motor, Dhaka.

The training sessions were conducted by Dr. Tanjir Rashid Soron, Principal Investigator, TRANSFORM Bangladesh Site, and Managing Director, Telepsychiatry Research and Innovation Network (TRIN), Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Associate Professor, Department of Child, Adolescent and Family Psychiatry at National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and Dr. Mohammad Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, North South University, Bangladesh; and Dr. Ursula Read, Senior Research Fellow, TRANSFORM, Dr. Gillian Hundt, Professor Emeritus, University of Warwick, and Dr. Sagar Zilka, Senior Research Fellow, TRANSFORM from the UK. A wide range of topics and different dimensions and approaches of social science, qualitative research and mental health was covered during the training. The training followed interactive process that included group tasks, mock interviews, mock observations, and reflection feedback.



Training Facilitation by Dr. Tanjir Rashid Soron

Office Setup at Korail and Connecting with Community

Telepsychiatry Research and Innovation Network (TRIN) established an office inside the Korail slum to earn the trust of the community and to establish connectivity with the community stakeholders and community people. As a part of this, six community workers are recruited among the residents of Korail slum. They are helping the field research team members to identify respondents and connect with the community. Few research team members are working at this field office regularly.



TRANSFORM Field office in Korail, Dhaka

Adoption and Customization of the Study Tools: Topic Guide & SOP

As a part of Work Package 1: ‘Conduct Rapid Ethnographic Assessment’, the TRANSFORM Bangladesh team translated topic guides and Standard Operating procedure (SOP) into Bangla and contextualized those in the Bangladeshi context for the project; following are the list of documents translated:



1. Topic Guide for Interviews with Caregivers.
2. Topic Guide for Individual Interviews with CHWs.
3. Topic Guide for Individual Interviews with Traditional and Faith-Based Healers.
4. Topic Guide for Individual and Group Interviews with People with Mental Health Conditions.

The field research team visited the study site-Korail slum and tested the acceptability of terms to the community and shared the learning with the research fellows and the local Principal Investigator (PI,) for best adaptation of the documents. Based on pretest findings, necessary aspects of Bangladeshi culture were added to the guidelines.

Weekly Coordination Meeting

Team coordination meetings take place every Monday at the Telepsychiatry Research and Innovation Network (TRIN) Conference room. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the activity plan and to review the status of the activity scheduled. Along with the TRANSFORM team, the meeting is also attended regularly by the members of the partner organization - Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP). In this quarter (April-June), 12 coordination meetings were held at the TRIN office.



Weekly Coordination Meeting at TRIN office

TRANSFORM Warwick University, UK team visit in Bangladesh

Three members from Warwick University, United Kingdom (UK), Dr. Ursula Read, Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Sagar Jilka, Senior Research Fellow, and Mr. Simon Smith, Project Manager of TRANSFORM project, visited Bangladesh in June 2022 to learn and observe the TRANSFORM Bangladesh activities. The UK team visited TRANSFORM field office at Korail and Telepsychiatry Research and Innovation Network Ltd. Office at Bangla Motor, Dhaka. Several meetings were held with ethnographic research team and TRANSFORM Bangladesh Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) along with travelled to field site, observed the interviewing, talked with community people, observed pathway of patient referral and management at National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

During the visit, they also met with different stakeholders including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), University of Dhaka, and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Dhaka. The team discussed with Prof Dr. Bidhan Ranjan Rai Poddar, Director and Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Associate Professor at the NIMH about the different aspects of the research and its collaboration with NIMH. The UK team led by Dr. Tanjir visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, (BSMMU) and met Professor Nahid Mahjabin Morshed, Chairman, Department of Psychiatry of BSMMU and discussed various aspects and prospects of TRANSFORM and how the TRANSFORM can help in research capacity building of the postgraduate students of the department of Psychiatry.



Meeting with Professor Nahid Mahjabin Morshed, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, (BSMMU)



TRANSFORM field office visit



Meeting with Community People

Community Engagement Meetings

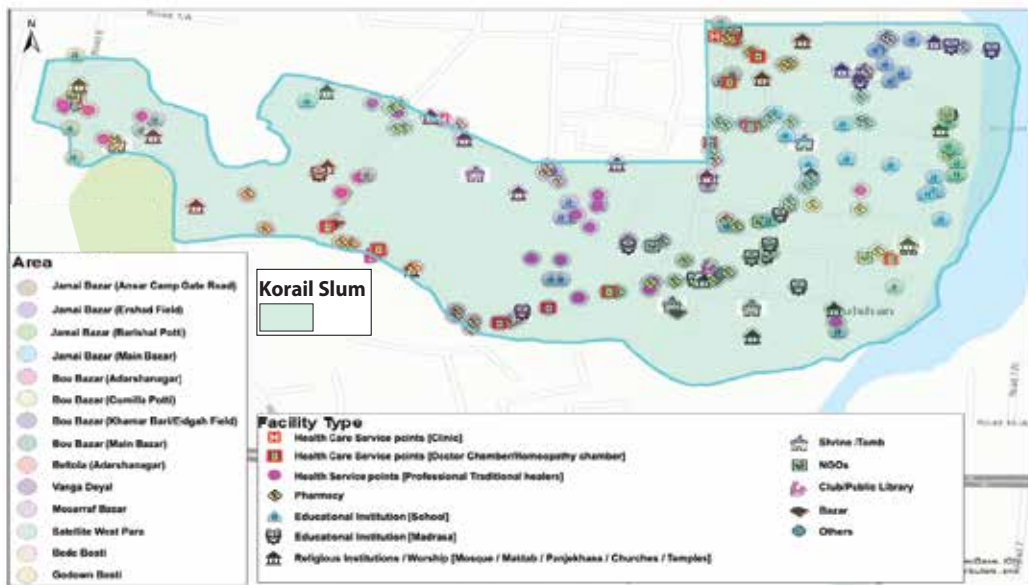
A series of community meetings were held with different stakeholders including community members and caregivers of persons with serious mental disorders living in the Korail slum, respected persons and leaders including political, religious, and faith-based leaders, health care professionals, and other stakeholders (government organizations, international organizations, local non-government organizations, different universities). The meetings were participatory and almost all meeting participants shared their thoughts and feedback on the program.



Meeting with community members and caregivers

Service Delivery Mapping on Korail Slum

As a part of the designed activities of the TRANSFORM, Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) conducted a Service Delivery Mapping of the Korail Slum in May 2022. To prepare this service delivery map, a primary transact walk was made, discussion with the community stakeholders was held to identify the prospects numbers of the facilities and validated those with secondary information received from the NGOs working in the Korail slum. The facilities include traditional/faith healers, religious institutions (mosque/temple), schools, madrasas, orphanages, pharmacies, health services facilities (NGO Clinics and Doctor's chambers), clubs, etc. This data helped to identify prospects' number of facilities for designing data collection tools. Open Data Kit (ODK) platform (KOBO Tools Box) was used to collect the information of the facilities with their geographical position. The acceptance level of geographical position of the facilities was maximum 5 meters. Trained data collectors conducted this survey.



Service Point Map at Korail Slum, Dhaka

The geographical coverage of the area is around 100 acres and is divided into 14 sections. The sections are:

- Bede Bosti
- Beltola (Adarshanagar)
- Bou Bazar (Adarshanagar)
- Bou Bazar (Cumilla Potti)
- Bou Bazar (Khamar Bari/Eidgah Field)
- Bou Bazar (Main Bazar)
- Godaun Bosti
- Jamai Bazar (Barishal Potti)
- Jamai Bazar (Ershad Field)
- Jamai Bazar (Ansar Camp Gate Road)
- Jamai Bazar (Main Bazar)
- Mosarraf Bazar
- Satellite West Para
- Vanga Deyal



Data Collection Monitoring at Korail Slum for Service Delivery Mapping

A total of 211 facilities including 50 schools, 19 madrasas, 20 religious' institutions (19 mosques and 1 temple) 2 clinics, 13 doctor's chambers, 66 pharmacies, 5 NGOs, 24 traditional healers, and 7 shrines were identified through service delivery mapping. The study team also prepared a social map engaging slum leaders of different parts, students, and general people of Korail slum which is basically used to triangulate the numbers of service delivery data.

Message Development Workshop

A day-long workshop on message development held on May 30, 2022, emphasized the importance of communicating with the community and engaging them to support helping people with serious mental disorders living in the poor urban area (Korail slum), so that they get access to quality mental health care. A brief opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Tanjir Rashid Soron, Principal Investigator, TRANSFORM (Bangladesh Side), Mr. Motaherul Haque, Adviser (Corporate Affairs), BCCP, and Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Adviser (Development), BCCP.



Inauguration of Message Development Workshop

In his opening remarks, Dr. Soron mentioned that “only about 8% of the patients bearing with mental disorders are receiving health care and treatment services”.

The workshop was engaged by 14 participants including clinic managers, community health workers (CHWs), youth leaders, community leaders, script writers, and designers along with mental health experts. A combination of Reflection, Discussion, and Synthesis (RDS) methodology was applied in the workshop that led the participants to follow through with the presentation, discussion, question-answer, group work, and group presentations. The group work found key message themes for 3 basic SBCC materials of posters, banners, and leaflets for the target audience groups of community people, parents, slum dwellers, community health workers, and community leaders.



Group Work in Message Development Workshop

This workshop was conducted by BCCP held under the Transforming Access to Care for Serious Mental Disorders in Slums (TRANSFORM) project.

Announcement of Doctoral Fellowship program

TRANSFORM Project offered a fully funded PhD opportunity from the University of Warwick to join the TRANSFORM Project. The scholarship will fund student fees for three years. The successful applicants will develop their piece of research and contribute to the aims and objectives of the research program. Moreover, the successful candidates will become an NIHR Academy member and will have access to events and activities to support the development of the global health research program.



PhD fellowship circular details

Applicants from five countries have applied for the fellowship. Following initial screening, the shortlisted applicants were already interviewed by Dr. Tanjir Rashid Soron, Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed (Co-Investigator, TRANSFORM Bangladesh), and Dr. Mohammad Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi (Co-Investigator, TRANSFORM Bangladesh). Finalization of the candidate is under process.

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